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Message Text

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12
ACTION CU-02

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O R 281400Z OCT 74 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4117
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0683

LIMDIS

E.O. 11765: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SF, US, SCUL
SUBJECT: VISIT OF MINISTER KOORNHOF TO U.S.

REF: CAPE TOWN 671 STATE 235812

BLANTYRE, DAR FOR EASUM

1. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REASONING RE TIMELINESS OF PARTIAL GRANT FOR KOORNHOF BUT WOULD SUGGEST IT CONSIDER FOLLOWING POINTS.

A. IRONIC THAT IT IS KOORNHOF WE HAVE TO TURN DOWN AS HE IS ONE OF MOST ABLE AND PROBABLY MOST LIBERAL OF CABINET MEMBERS, WHO SEEMS HAVE GROWING INFLUENCE WITH PRIME MINISTER AND POSSIBLY VERY PROMISING FUTURE IN NATIONAL PARTY. IDEAS AND REALITIES HE PERCEIVES IN US COULD ENCOURAGE HIM PRESS FORWARD WITH PM TOWARD GREATER EFFORTS AT LIBERALIZATION NATIONAL PARTY POLICIES.

B. OWING TO CROWDED MINISTERIAL SCHEDULE AND BUSY PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR BEGINNING AGAIN IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, THIS MAY BE ONLY CHANCE WE WILL HAVE TO GET THIS IMPORTANT CABINET MEMBER UNTIL AFTER JULY NEXT NEAR.

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C. QUITE APART FROM FACT WE SAVE MONEY BY PARTIAL GRANT, FACT

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IS THAT KOORNHOF IS GOING ANYWAY AND WE COULD QUIETLY POINT
OUT TO ANY CRITICS THAT HE INITIALLY CAME UNDER PRIVATE
SPONSORSHIP AND WE DECIDED IT WOULD BE USEFUL PROVIDE GREATER
BALANCE TO VISIT BY EXTENDING IT TO INCLUDE BROADER EXPOSURE
TO US SOCIETY AND DIFFERENT CONTACTS THAN HE LIKELY HAVE OTHERWISE.

D. REALIZE THAT MOST SEVERE CRITICS OF ANY SAG MINISTERIAL
VISIT WOULD PROBABLY NOT ACCEPT FOREGOING POINTS AS VALID BUT
DOUBT THEY WOULD BE ANY LESS CRITICAL OF DEFFERED VISIT.
FURTHER, IF WE ARE REALLY CONCERNED AT CIRCUMVENTION THROUGH
PRIVATE VISITS THIS MAY BE OPPORTUNITY HAVE SOME INFLUENCE ON
NATURE HIS VISIT. ALSO, BY INVITING OCCASIONAL MINISTER OR
NATIONAL PARTY TYPE WE HELP AVOID POSSIBLE OBSTACLES TO OUR
INVITING BLACKS AND VARIOUS OPPOSITION ELEMENTS.

2. IF DESPITE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS DEPARTMENT CLEARLY FEELS
VISIT AT THIS TIME IS NOT TO US ADVANTAGE, THEN I SUGGEST
DEPARTMENT CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ME TO BE HONEST WITH KOORNHOF
ABOUT OUR MISGIVINGS AND EXPLAIN WHY VISIT AT THIS TIME WOULD
NOT BE OPPORTUNE. BELIEVE I CAN DO THIS WITHOUT CREATING RE-
SENTMENT OR FEELING THAT WE SET HIM UP FOR TURNDOWN. AT SAME
TIME IT WOULD ALERT SAG AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT WE ARE NOT
HAPPY AT APPARENT CIRCUMVENTION EFFORTS REGARDLESS OF WHO IS
SPONSORING THEM.

3. HONEST EXPLANATION OF OUR POSITION IN THIS MATTER COULD
BE IMPORTANT AND BENEFICIAL IN ANOTHER WAY. IT APPEARS VORSTER,
MULLER, KOORNHOF AND POSSIBLY OTHERS IN CABINET ARE SEARCHING
FOR NEW KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH AFRICA AND OUTSIDE WORLD
WHICH MUST NECESSARILY INVOLVE SOME CHANGES ON SOUTH AFRICA'S
PART. OTHER CABINET MEMBERS PROBABLY PREFER SEARCH FOR OUTSIDE
SUPPORTERS OF STATUS QUO. ALTHOUGH "PRIVATE VISITS" MAY
SERVE EITHER SIDE OF THESE EFFORTS, EXPOSITION OF OUR VIEW
TO KOORNHOF MAY SERVE TO ALERT HIM (AND HOPEFULLY PM) TO
POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH EFFORTS IN CASE OF US MAY DISSERVE
THEIR CAUSE.

4. NEED EARLY DECISION IN ANY EVENT AS KOORNHOF WILL NEED
REPLY BEFORE DEPARTURE COMING WEEKEND. IF I AM TO USE EXCUSE
OF HEAVY NOVEMBER SCHEDULING (OR LACK OF FY-75 FUNDING, WHICH
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WE ALSO LEFT LEEWAY FOR) I SHOULD BE ABLE SUGGEST POSSIBLE
DATES FOR LATER SCHEDULING.
HURD

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